



anmausa.org
Association of Nepalese
in Midwest America



Viewpoints

A mouthpiece for Nepalese in Midwest America

2005 Nepali New Year issue
ANMA's Official Newsletter

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Viewpoints is the official newsletter of **Association of Nepalese in Midwest America**. It is published quarterly and contains news and articles from our participating members. ANMA welcomes news from your area to be written up in Viewpoints. To submit news, pictures or articles, please contact [The Editor](mailto:michigannepali@yahoo.com) at michigannepali@yahoo.com

Letter from the editor

Dear ANMA friends, **Happy New Year 2062**

Thank you for your positive response to our newsletter's new look. That's why we have continued the format. I am overwhelmed by how things have been changing for a lot of our Nepali community. I hear of babies being born, friends moving to a different city and graduations and so on and so forth. It is a natural cycle but those are definitely special moments. It's all exciting news and you should be proud to share it with the community. Your news and views matter. I was excited when Dr. Prahlad Pant mentioned in last ANMA meeting in his house in Cincinnati, Ohio about how he is starting a project of scanning the paper copy of ANMA Viewpoints from almost 20 years ago. This is an organization that has come a long way and seen a lot of things in between. Be sure to check out the section called "Blast from the Past" on our website to see how far we have come. It's because of outlets like this; we continue to be heard in this foreign land. That is why we have added a new column called 'Opinion' in this newsletter. A young man from West Virginia told me how angry he was not being able to express himself, so this time, it is an outlet for him, for his voice. I hope you feel heard. Next time, anyone else can use it as your outlet, for your views. I hope all Nepalese feel trusted and heard.

I am happy to have Roshani share a Nepali-American perspective on things about family and cultural transformation. I am always happy to see pictures and share them with your permission. All in all, I hope you will find some connection with all the Nepalese represented here, who are writers, artists and in most cases just good human beings - some friends and some yet strangers. But you might meet them tomorrow and feel connected. Do look for that connection that ties all of us together. Do some soul searching as the New Year draws close. I don't know if you believe in resolutions but have some optimism for the New Year nevertheless. Spread the hopeful joy that permeates your heart and pray for peace in your soul and around.

Next newsletter will be published before you know it. So start pouring your submissions in. Here is my email: michigannepali@yahoo.com. I am looking forward to hearing from you. ~ Dikshya



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Nepali Grrl Blues

By Roshani, Ann Arbor, MI

I listen to hip hop. Matter of fact, I breathe hip hop. I live it. To me hip hop is a lifestyle. It involves critical thinking, creative solutions, art and entrepreneurship. Most of you might be wondering, “Is she talking about the same rap-music we loathe?” This is where things get slightly complicated. You see, I hate rap. I hate the channel Black Entertainment Television (B.E.T) and furthermore I cannot stand main-stream rap entertainers like 50 Cent or even, dare I say it, Eminem. I only listen to the “good” stuff. Black Star. Dead Prez. Common. Hi-Tek. Talib Kweli. Lauryn Hill. Mos Def. The Coup. Even if some of these artists have not come out with anything new or chart-blazing, I am willing to dig out their old joints and place my walkman (as the vibrations of hip hop can only be felt fully thru a live performance or headphones) on full blast. I guess you could say I am a hip hop puritan.

Hip hop music has a culture that correlates directly with one’s sense of style. This is similar to most genres in music. If you’re a reggae-head you probably believe in some of the principles of Rastafari which would lead to much of your wardrobe being red, yellow and green. If you like punk you probably wear Converse’s Chuck-Taylors or Doc Martins or something along those lines. While these are sweeping generalizations and there are always exceptions, my point is that people who gravitate towards a certain form of music usually do so because they have like-minds. This is often reflected externally in fashion-trends.

I often wear a head-wrap and an over-sized baseball-cap which reads, “Got Melanin?” This does not sit well with my Nepali-born parents. My dad throws his hands in the air—almost on beat—and my mom looks at me funny. Recently I suppose her silence bothered her too much; she blurted out, “Roshani, do you think you’re an African American?” I couldn’t help but scoff at her blatant hypocrisy. During my high school years when I really had no sense of self she was the very wombyn who paid \$106 for me to get my hair highlighted *blonde*! Peculiar that she never asked did I think I was European-American then. Quite the contrary, she smiled with glee as she said I looked, “so pretty.”



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At our house the Mahabharata takes place on a daily basis. Of course this day was no exception. As soon as my mom asked me if I thought I was Black I responded with the question, “Why would you think that?”

“You know, you wear that topi-cap and you wear that scarf around your head: these are not parts of our culture,” she stated feeling triumphant that her points were valid.

I looked at her up and down. Studying her sweater, jeans and socks. Ann Taylor. Gap. Ralph Lauren. “Hmm. I didn’t know denim was a part of Nepali culture,” I signaled my eyes towards her jeans. “Furthermore, this *scarf* around my head is from Nepal!”

She shook her head and murmured, “Buck-buck, buck-buck, esko khaali buck-buck whooncha.” After this debate of ours I dropped the baseball cap, but stuck with my dupata-turned-head-wrap. Our house has had peace for a few months since, but of course, like all good things those fleeting moments of harmony passed.

I’m currently writing a play about the South Asian American experience. Two weeks back I went on my first business trip to the east coast in hopes of interviewing South Asians living in Jersey City so I could interview them about the hate-crime group that terrorized Hindus in the late 1980s. Known as the Dot-Busters this group harassed and even killed some South Asian Americans. Their targets were people they called Dot-Heads: people who looked like they would wear the Tika, or red-dot. After speaking with countless organizers and activists from that era, I felt inspired. I decided to start wearing a Tika in homage to the victims of the Dot Busters.

My mom cringed at the sight of my latest fashion choice. “Chya! Ke gurrya tyo? Keena Tika lugga? Kusto Pakhe justo dehkyo chow!”

I gasped, “I thought you wanted me to be more in tune with my culture?” So she frowned her face, unaware of what she could possibly say this time.

“We’re only supposed to wear that once we’ve been married,” She said.

I reminded her that both my sister and I had a ceremony in which we were married to the sun once we came of age. Didn’t that count for anything?

In the end we agreed to disagree by sighing and shaking our heads in unison as we always do. I put my headphones back on and was comforted by Rakim’s lyrics. “It ain’t where you from, it’s where you at.”



ANMA wishes a very HAPPY NEW YEAR 2062 to all the Nepalese around the world!



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On the Move:

- Raj and Deepa Wagley and baby boy Krish of Michigan moved to Palatine, Illinois in December 2004. They are expecting another boy in July 2005. Congratulations to the proud parents!!



The adorable Krish Wagley
(as promised in last newsletter)

- Rajendra and Neeta Khatiwada and their three children moved from Michigan to Lexington, KY in February 2005.
Michiganders miss all of you very much.
- Dr. Pradeep Dhital from Midland, MI writes: Our daughter Sukti, who is in Northeastern law school in Boston, went to Nepal to do a 3 month legal internship in Women's rights from December 2004 to February 2005. She is now back in Boston with new ideas and vigor after successfully completing her assignment.

Congratulations Sukti!



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[Rates: Full page: \$100, Half page: \$50, Quarter page: \$25]

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NEWS – Bunch of us celebrated Teej, Nepali womens' festival in Hindu Temple, Canton, Michigan. Many of us fasted and did the puja together at the end of the day with Shastriji. We are here and we really fasted, dad and mom! Picture as a proof: [Please Note: No reproduction of the pictures here allowed without permission of the current Editor of the Viewpoints.]

Photo courtesy: Neetu Wagley, Captions: Neetu, Amrita, Mrs Pant, Jayanti, kids, Prapti, Dikshya



 <p>Got taste buds? Try Café Tandoori</p>  <p>2600 N. Saginaw Rd, Midland, MI 48640 (989) 631-0362 Fax: (989) 631-0364</p>	<p><i>Run By Our Own Entrepreneur Ms. Uma Shrestha in the Beautiful city of Saginaw, MI</i></p> <p>Also try</p>  <p>Kabob and Curry House 4070 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48603 Take Out Available: Call (989) 497-4400 Or Fax your order: (989) 497-4401</p>
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Opinion – a new column for you, from you & by you

Before you go demonstrate in front of Tri-Chandra College... take a piece of advice

By Pritaz Karki, West Virginia



Think about Nepal, think about Nepalese, think for your future, and support the step forward of His Majesty the King. What we had were old, senseless politicians. They should have minimum basic like a Bachelor's Degree as an eligibility to be minister. We educated people do not deserve to follow the law- implemented by those uneducated ministers.

About communication cut-off by the King: Understand it this way; he wants to implement new policy and new system, sort of a new experiment. We should feel blessed that we have at least the King to look over these dirty politicians. Else, who would have any control of them?

In the country smaller in size than one out of 50 states in the USA, Nepal has more than 36 political parties with so many so-called leaders. Are any one of them, a leader in true sense? What does leadership aim at? Is it leadership to fool their followers, and think about their own financial status, personal benefits, nepotism and jeopardize the future of their followers? Think again before you join another student demonstration disturbing classes in the colleges.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



MICHIGAN presents Nepali concert with renowned artists from Nepal: Harish Mathema, Sanjay Shrestha, Dhiraj Rai, Sanjib Pradhan, Sarishma Amatya, and more.

Date: April 17, 2005 (Sunday) 7pm – till you drop @ Southfield, MI

Venue: St. Peter and Paul Church, 25566 Lasher Rd, Southfield, MI 48034 (10mile & Civic Theater)
Ticket Price: \$25 each with dinner included, cash bar available

Contact: Vivek Lamsal – for more info: @ 248-722-0446 or check www.nepbiz.com

[Thanks to Mr. Dilip KC of Honey Tree Grill in Novi, Michigan for providing me this info.]

The Editor

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UPCOMING EVENTS: continued...

Nepali American Organization of Ohio presents Nepali New Year Party - April 16th at 5:30pm in Columbus, OH.

Venue: Bombay Garden Bar and Restaurant, 2124 South Hamilton Rd, Columbus OH.

Tel: 614-322-2536

Cost: \$8 per person for NAOO member, \$12 per person for NAOO non-member

Please sign up at NAOO web site at <http://www.nao.org>.

Chicagoland Nepali Pariwar, NFP proudly present New Year 2062 Celebrations, featuring renowned artists from Nepal: Harish Mathema, Sanjay Shrestha, Dhiraj Rai, Sanjib Pradhan, Sarishma Amatya, and more. You can buy your tickets online at <http://www.cnpariwar.org>.

Venue:
S. J. Gregory Auditorium
5649 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60660

Date: April 16, 2005 (Saturday) 5:30pm - Midnight

Ticket Price: Adult: \$35, Children: \$25 (Age 15 Years and Under), ** 5 years and Under: Free

What is CNP? – By Sanjay Shrestha, Chicago, IL

Information on [Chicagoland Nepali Pariwar](http://www.cnpariwar.org),
NFP Phone: 773.334.7101
6033 N Sheridan Rd., Unit 36J Email: excoms@cnpariwar.org
Chicago, IL 60660
<http://www.cnpariwar.org>

Chicagoland Nepali Pariwar (CNP), has been registered with the State of Illinois as a not-for-profit organization which will not have any affiliation to any political institutions, religious institutions and/or parties.

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We will operate as an affiliate of Association of Nepalese in Midwest America (ANMA), an organization of Nepalese and friends of Nepal in North America founded in 1982 in Chicago, Illinois and subsequently incorporated as a not-for-profit tax exempt organization in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1989. We will be represented in the Nepalese Americas Council (NAC) through ANMA, and with the global Non Resident Nepali Association through NAC. Although CNP has been registered as not-for-profit with Illinois, we will seek to be exempt from taxation under Section 501(C, 3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. If that status is granted then all the donations made to CNP shall be tax deductible. As a not-for-profit social/charitable organization our objectives are:

- to coordinate, facilitate, and promote social and charitable activities among its members and friends;
- to provide aid and help to its members and friends;
- to preserve, nurture, and promote Nepalese culture and heritage;
- to engage in activities intended to help the continuing development of Nepal; and
- to strengthen and foster relationships with other Organizations with similar objectives.

Activities and accomplishments of CNP during the last year:

SurSudha Concert:

We on behalf of Nepalese American Council hosted the Sur Sudha Concert in Chicago on July 31st, 2004. It was a fund raiser for the construction of a seniors residence in Devghat in southern Nepal.

Dashain Nite 2061:

We hosted a Dashain celebration get-together 2061 on October 30, 2004.

CNP Tsunami Fundraiser:

We raised over \$2,000 for the UNICEF's Tsunami Fund as endorsed by APAC. The decision was based on the fact that UNICEF has one of the lowest overhead (93% direct aid, 7% administrative costs).

Welcome Reception - Nepali Ambassador:

We hosted a welcome/talk program for the new Nepali Ambassador to the US His Excellency Kedar Bhakta Shrestha on January 16, 2005.

We note the decision of the Embassy, announced on that day, to initiate the issuance of visitor visas to Nepal from the Honorary Consul General's office in Chicago. CNP volunteers will be actively assisting Mr. Marvin Brustin's office in visa issuances.



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Welcome Reception - New Immigrants/Arrivals:

We hosted a Welcome Reception on March 27th 2005 for all newly arrived Nepali immigrant families including a large number of DV recipients.

Future activities and events:

Nepali New Year Celebrations 2062:

We are hosting a Nepali New Year Celebrations and Cultural Program on April 16, 2005. We have invited renowned artists from Nepal: Harish Mathema, Sanjay Shrestha, Dhiraj Rai, Sanjib Pradhan, Sarishma Amatya, and more.

Annual Picnic:

Annual Picnic is tentatively scheduled for June 18th, Saturday, at Harms Wood in Skokie, IL.

Thanks for all your contributions to the Viewpoints. Keep them coming at michigannepali@yahoo.com & last but not the least, here is ...

NEWS FROM THE HOMELAND: NEPAL

Nepali New Year to be celebrated in grand manner Sunday - April 13-17, 2005

With an objective to celebrate the Nepali New Year, New Year Cultural and Touristic Festival-2005 is being constituted. The committee has made a series of programmes to be organized in this event starting April 13. Various programmes such as folk songs and dances, national songs, dohori songs, religious rituals, blood donation will be organized in different parts of Kathmandu valley including Thamel, Bhaktapur. This event is being promoted by Nepal Tourism Board and will last till April 17. [Source: *highlandernepal.com*, 4.11.05]



**This is all for this issue! Hope to have more of your contributions next issue in August 2005.....Until then,
Take care of yourself!**